



**Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest
541-575-3000
www.fs.usda.gov/malheur**

FIRE UPDATE

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WEST FORK FIRE: Conditions favorable for burnout operations

JOHN DAY, OR – The local Type 3 Team took advantage of weather conditions yesterday evening by conducting a 50 acre burnout operation on the west flank of the West Fork Fire which is burning on the north slope of the Aldrich Mountain range, 10 miles southeast of Dayville, Oregon.

“Burnout operations were very successful,” said Kevin Brock, Incident Commander for the Type 3 Team, “although we experienced high winds last night, it assisted in blowing the main fire back into itself, as well as push the burnout deeper off Forest Road 2150, creating an even stronger control line.”

The intent for the next couple days is to continue to conduct burnout operations, as conditions allow, north of Forest Road 2150, tying into established hand and dozer lines on the east flank, securing the perimeter.

Recent hot, dry and windy conditions caused an increase in the fire activity over the weekend, prompting fire officials to reassess the fire. Consuming the heavy dead and down fuels, as well as thick snags from the former Thorn Fire, there were minor spot fires across Forest Road 2150. While crews were able to contain and control the spot fires, officials decided the burnout operation was most favorable due to the fires location and dangerous conditions.

The fire is now estimated at 829 acres, including the burnout operation.

To ensure public and firefighter safety, forest officials ask that the public remain clear of the Aldrich Mountain area.

Current closures include a temporary **road closure** for Forest Road 2150, west to the Aldrich Mountain Lookout from the intersection with Forest Road 2150-070.

The **area closure** for the West Fork Fire also remains in effect. This closure will affect a small portion of the north slope of the Aldrich Mountain range, including:

- Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 17 (portion north of FR 2150), and 16 (portion north of FR 2150) of Township 14S and Range 28E.

Official orders are available at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/malheur/>.

Updates will be available on InciWeb at <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4371/> as conditions warrant.

The fire danger rating across the Malheur National Forest is currently at HIGH. Industrial Fire Precaution Level II and Phase A of Public Use Restrictions are in effect forest-wide.



for the greatest good

NEWS RELEASE

(continued)

Effective Thursday, August 6 at 12:01 a.m., Industrial Fire Precaution Level will increase to III, and Public Use Restrictions will increase to Phase B forest-wide. The south half of the forest will increase to VERY HIGH for their Fire Danger Rating, and the north half will remain at HIGH. With this, no firewood cutting will be allowed. Campfires will be allowed only in a designated campsite.

For additional information, contact the forest at 541-575-3000.

For more information on the Malheur National Forest, please visit us at www.fs.usda.gov/malheur, follow [U.S. Forest Service- Malheur National Forest](#) on Facebook, and [@MalheurNF](#) on Twitter.

To report a fire, contact the John Day Interagency Dispatch Center at 541-575-1321 or the Burns Interagency Communication Center at 541-573-1000.

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Low intensity burnout operations conducted yesterday evening on the west flank of the fire, north of Forest Road 2150. Photo by Ed Clark.